

## *Angler Guide*

Due to extensive channelization and sedimentation in the upper reaches of the watershed, most deep-water habitats that once held large fish have been replaced by long, shallow, sandy runs. These runs provide inadequate habitat for game fishes, making good fishing opportunities limited within these reaches. Anglers can expect to find a few green sunfish in these upper reaches of the watershed, but overall sportfishing is poor.

The lower reaches of the Wyaconda River provide a more appealing area for fishing.

Downstream of the Lewis-Clark County line, the river is still impacted by upstream reaches, but is not channelized. Deep-water habitats with large woody debris that provide good fish habitat can still be found within this reach of river. Anglers can expect to find flathead catfish, channel catfish, common carp, and drum within the lower Wyaconda River. During certain times in the spring, other species from the Mississippi River can be found in the extreme lower Wyaconda River, providing good angling opportunity.

Anglers and boaters can access the Wyaconda River at Wyaconda Crossing Conservation Area and Sunnyside School Access in Lewis County. Significant reaches of the Wyaconda River can be floated by canoe or small jon boat much of the year. Under low flow conditions, there is a more frequent need to drag watercraft over riffles and debris than in Ozark streams. But unlike the Ozarks, anglers will experience isolation within the forested river corridor, in addition to good fishing for a wide variety of species. Detailed float trip information and maps highlighting public stream access areas can be obtained by calling the Hannibal office of the Missouri Department of Conservation at 573-248-2530.